From: Morning Consult
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Subject: Morning Consult Tech: Week in Review & What"s Ahead
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By Sam Sabin

Week in Review

Antitrust and regulation

- The Federal Trade Commission is examining whether to heighten its oversight of Facebook Inc. Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg's leadership as a part of its probe into the company's data lapses, according to two people familiar with the discussion, in a rare move for a case over a company's business practices regarding violations of users' privacy. Facebook said it hopes to reach an "appropriate and fair resolution" in the negotiations.

- Apple Inc. and Qualcomm Corp. announced an unexpected settlement during the second day of a federal trial that saw both seeking billions in damages over royalty disputes. The two companies established both a six-

year license agreement and a multiyear chipset supply agreement, suggesting the two could work together on new iPhones, and Apple will pay Qualcomm an undisclosed amount.

- The planned merger between T-Mobile US Inc. and Sprint Corp. is unlikely to be approved in its current structure, Justice Department antitrust enforcement staff told the two companies, according to people familiar with the matter. T-Mobile Chief Executive John Legere denied the report, calling it "simply untrue" in a tweet, but sources said Justice Department staff members raised concerns about the all-stock deal and whether it would be a threat to competition in a meeting earlier this month.

Cyber and national security

- Russian military officials attempted to hack former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's personal office for the first time within "approximately five hours" of then-candidate Donald Trump suggesting during a July 2016 rally that Russia should hunt for Clinton's emails, according to special counsel Robert Mueller's report released publicly today.

- Facebook updated its blog post about a security incident last month that left user passwords stored in a readable format, noting that "millions" of Instagram users were affected, rather than "tens of thousands" as previously published. Facebook said it plans to notify the additional impacted users.

- Facebook said it "unintentionally uploaded" the email contacts of 1.5 million users without their knowledge or consent starting in May 2016, and the uploaded data has been used to improve the company's ad targeting, build the platform's web of social connections and recommend friends to add. The discovery comes after a security researcher noticed that some users were being asked to enter their email password when they signed up for new accounts, and reporters noticed a pop-up also appeared during sign-up saying Facebook is "importing" your contacts without asking first.

- The FBI National Academy Associates Inc., a nonprofit for the alumni of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy, said records for hundreds of law enforcement employees , including home addresses and phone numbers, were posted online by a hacker group after apparently being stolen from three websites associated with local chapters. The nonprofit, which is working with federal authorities to investigate the

breach, said all three websites were using third-party software and that the national database itself was not impacted.

Content moderation and misinformation

- The European Parliament approved a measure that would allow fines of up to 4 percent of a company's revenue if it repeatedly fails to remove extremist content from its platform in a timely manner - a move that follows Facebook's slow reaction to remove a livestream of a gunman killing people at two New Zealand mosques last month. A new European Parliament, which will be elected next month, will now finalize the law's text in cooperation with the European Commission and EU government representatives.

- YouTube mistakenly flagged videos of the Notre Dame Cathedral fire as footage from the 9/11 terrorist attacks - showing a snippet from Encyclopedia Britannica about the attacks below several clips of the Paris fires. YouTube rolled out the text tool to combat misinformation on the platform last year, and a YouTube spokesperson said the company is disabling the tool for Notre Dame videos as the feature is "triggered algorithmically and our systems sometimes make the wrong call."

- Twitter Inc. left tweets threatening the life of Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) up on the platform over the weekend to allow law enforcement to investigate the threats, according to a source close to the company, after President Donald Trump shared a video Friday that implied Omar did not take the 9/11 attacks seriously. Twitter said it usually removes threatening tweets as they are reported, but the source said the platform left them up this time as the Capitol Police work on the issue.

Wireless and telecommunications

- Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai said he opposes China Mobile Ltd.'s bid to provide telecommunications services in the United States, and the agency's commissioners will vote on the application, which the company submitted in 2011, at its next open commission meeting on May 9. The FCC told reporters today that agency officials believe the carrier could have significant national security and law enforcement risks.

- Sprint said in a partly redacted filing with the FCC that its business performance isn't strong enough for the company to survive on its own as its

proposed merger with T-Mobile faces growing regulatory scrutiny. The company noted it had lost postpaid handset connections, or customers who do not pay their monthly accounts in advance, last quarter, according to the filing, clarifying that its reported results for the last three months of 2018 were "incomplete" and that recent net postpaid connection gains were driven by free lines given to existing customers.

2020 candidates and tech

- Silicon Valley donors have either given money to multiple 2020 Democratic presidential candidates or to no one at all , according to the first fundraising snapshot released earlier this week. Sen. Kamala Harris of California has drawn support from at least eight executives from Facebook, Apple, Amazon.com Inc. and Alphabet Inc., while Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, the candidate with the longest relationship in the Valley, has collected money from five executives from those companies and a string of other notable names, including former Google CEO Eric Schmidt and Salesforce.com Inc. CEO Marc Benioff.

- Democratic presidential candidate and former Maryland Rep. John Delaney said he wants to create a Department of Cybersecurity, an independent agency that would oversee the country's cybersecurity strategy and be led by a cabinet-level secretary, in an effort to consolidate the United States' current cyber authorities.

Law enforcement and tech

- Law enforcement use of a Google database called Sensorvault, which contains the company's cellphone location data from hundreds of millions of devices globally for nearly a decade, has increased sharply over the past six months, according to Google employees familiar with the data requests, with one employee saying they've received as many as 180 requests in one week. Police and investigators use Sensorvault as a virtual dragnet, but innocent people have been caught up in the sweeping effort to find suspects or witnesses.

- Microsoft Corp. President Brad Smith said at a Stanford University conference that the company denied a request from an undisclosed California law enforcement agency to power its facial recognition technology in officers' cars and body cameras, saying the move would lead to women

and minorities being disproportionately questioned because of AI bias. Smith also said the company declined to provide similar technology for the capital city of an unnamed country due to concerns that it would suppress freedom of assembly there.

What's Ahead

- The House and Senate are not scheduled to be in session this week and will return April 29.
- The Federal Communications Commission's next open commission meeting will be May 9. Agenda items include the motion to deny China Mobile's application to provide services in the United States.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

04/19/2019

LocoMoco Security Conference

04/22/2019

FCBA CLE on drones, safety and security	6:00 pm

04/23/2019

Brooklyn 5G Summit with NYU	3:00 pm

04/24/2019

Brooklyn 5G Summit with NYU

2019 ASCII SMB IT Success Summit Washington	11:30 am

Center for Strategic & International Studies program on supply chain security and software	1:00 pm
FCBA CLE on Telephone Consumer Protection Act and robocalls	4:00 pm

04/25/2019

Brooklyn 5G Summit with NYU	
ASCII SMB IT Success Summit Washington	
National Association of Attorneys General meeting	
Broadcom's Mission to Modernize 2019	8:30 am
FTC's Fighting Consumer Fraud and Identity Theft in Nebraska webinar	1:00 pm
Copyright Office World Intellectual Property Day program on IP and sports	2:00 pm

04/26/2019

Brooklyn 5G Summit with NYU	
ASCII SMB IT Success Summit Washington	
National Association of Attorneys General meeting	

View full calendar

The Brands That Define American Culture and Commerce

Morning Consult analyzed over 400,000 survey interviews to determine this year's rankings. See who made the list.

Morning Consult Tech Top Reads

1) Mark Zuckerberg leveraged Facebook user data to fight rivals and help friends, leaked documents show

Olivia Solon and Cyrus Farivar, NBC News

2) Facebook says it 'unintentionally uploaded' 1.5 million people's email contacts without their consent
Rob Price, Business Insider

3) Mueller: Russians tried to hack Clinton accounts hours after Trump's email remarks
Jacqueline Thomsen, The Hill

4) Tracking Phones, Google Is a Dragnet for the Police
Jennifer Valentino-Devries, The New York Times

5) UK proposes banning social media 'likes' for children
The Associated Press

6) Trump administration denied almost a third of new H-1B visas last quarter
Stef W. Kight, Axios

7) Microsoft turned down facial-recognition sales on human rights concerns
Joseph Menn, Reuters

8) T-Mobile-Sprint Deal Runs Into Resistance From DOJ Antitrust Staff
Drew FitzGerald and Brent Kendall, The Wall Street Journal

9) Qualcomm surges after announcing a settlement with Apple over patent royalties
David Faber, CNBC

10) Big Tech's Big Tax Ruse: Industry Splurges on Buybacks
Nico Grant and Ian King, Bloomberg

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